

**MAYOR'S ADVISORY GROUP
JANUARY 17, 2006**

MINUTES

Members Present

Joseph Donaldson, Mayor
David Camacho
Stephanie McKinney
Mitch Strohmman
Lee Treece
Renee Fausett
H.E. "Gene" Westerhaus

Members Absent

Judy Boyer
Dana Russell
Grover Decker
Ryan Rodriguez
Coral Evans - excused
Julie Pastrick
Stephanie Ludwig
Karl Baumgartner
Joanne Keene
Robert Magnuson
Nat White
Tara Green

Staff Present

Jeri Dustir, Deputy City Manager
Laura Parker

Mitch Strohmman called the meeting to order at 6:54 a.m.

Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Gene Westerhaus to approve the minutes from the December 20, 2005 meeting. Motion seconded by Stephanie McKinney. Motion carried unanimously.

Mitch welcomed the group and turned time over to Jeri Dustir, Deputy City Manager for an update on the Legislative Agenda & City/County Alliance. Jeri passed out a copy of the Draft 2006 State Legislative Agenda and a draft copy of the Alliance for the Second Century pamphlet for review by the members.

The City Council State Legislative Agenda includes three priorities: Guiding Principles – the Council's legislative policies are guided by the Council goals adopted with the FY 2006 budget. Goals provide general guidance and allow for proactive action on specific issues as well as defensive responses to issues that arise during the legislative session. Legislative policies are guided by two core principles, which form the backbone of the AZ League of Cities & Towns legislative program. AZ voters chose, through a series of initiatives to return a portion of tax revenues to local communities through state shared revenue, provided to municipalities in exchange of foregoing local taxing authority such as income and luxury taxes. System supports local choice & self-government by allowing city and town councils to decide how tax dollars will be spent within the community, fund basic services including public safety, courts, parks & libraries. Cities & towns are voluntarily created by the residents to provide local self-government and services.

Council supports the core principles of the Alliance for the Second Century. Governing bodies of the Alliance have determined investment in all components of the education continuum and development of workforce housing are of the highest importance in northern Arizona; and the most significant policy issues to be considered as the foundation for local economic vitality. Five public agencies collaborate together on issues – City, County, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff Unified School District and Coconino Community College. Alliance for the Second Century is concerned that the demographic and economic trends in Flagstaff and Coconino County do not provide for a stable and vital future for students, residents & businesses. Alliance focus is on the following primary issues:

K-12 Education – Improve Arizona funding in maintenance and operations to the national average. Use a portion of the projected increase in state revenue for funding over several years, implement First Class Education initiative, eliminate moratorium on fully funding Joint Technical Education Districts.

Coconino Community College – Protect base funding, support transition to higher education by protecting dual enrollment programs & expanding transfer articulation programs.

Northern Arizona University – Develop funding formulas recognizing the cost of providing undergraduate residential education stressing small classes & close interaction with faculty, support expansion to improve access to baccalaureate degrees.

All Education – Equalize education-funding formulas to recognize the unique costs of operating rural institutions.

Housing – Support local jurisdiction efforts to better address the development of workforce housing units.

Rural Policy Institute – Support ongoing funding of Rural Policy Institute at Northern Arizona University to establish basis for policy decisions critical to the economic stability of rural Arizona & State.

State Budget – Develop budget structure that provides for sustainable revenue to support investment in all components of education continuum, goal to prepare students to enter workforce.

Flagstaff priorities include but not limited to Water Policy, Forest Health & Fuel Management, Economic Development Tools/Special Districts, Bioscience R & D Tax Credits, and Pseudoephedrine Regulation.

Discussion was held on the information presented and questions answered.

Mitch thanked Jeri for her time and presentation.

Upcoming Meeting Topics:

Discussion was held on possible topics including Update on Arizona Cardinals and Adult Center Programs/Services available. Decision made to table these topics until a later date.

Discussion was also held on the number of members absent, staff was directed to send letter to those not present encouraging their attendance.

Decision was made to have **Ballot Items** as the discussion topic for the February 21, 2006 meeting. Per Mayor Donaldson, Jeri Dustir will be invited to speak to members on this topic.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 am.